

Clinical Policy: Valbenazine (Ingrezza, Ingrezza Sprinkle)

Reference Number: CP.CPA.364

Effective Date: 01.01.26

Last Review Date: 12.25

Line of Business: Commercial

[Revision Log](#)

See [Important Reminder](#) at the end of this policy for important regulatory and legal information.

Description

Valbenazine (Ingrezza[®], Ingrezza[®] Sprinkle) is a vesicular monoamine transporter 2 (VMAT2) inhibitor.

FDA Approved Indication(s)

Ingrezza and Ingrezza Sprinkle are indicated for the treatment of adults with

- Tardive dyskinesia (TD)
- Chorea associated with Huntington's disease

Policy/Criteria

Provider must submit documentation (such as office chart notes, lab results, or other clinical information) supporting that member has met all approval criteria.

It is the policy of health plans affiliated with Centene Corporation[®] that Ingrezza and Ingrezza Sprinkle are **medically necessary** when the following criteria are met:

I. Initial Approval Criteria

A. Tardive Dyskinesia (must meet all):

1. Diagnosis of TD secondary to a centrally acting dopamine receptor blocking agent (DRBA) (*see Appendix F*);
2. Prescribed by or in consultation with a psychiatrist or neurologist;
3. Age \geq 18 years;
4. Ingrezza/Ingrezza Sprinkle is not prescribed concurrently with Austedo[®]/Austedo[®] XR or tetrabenazine;
5. Dose does not exceed both (a and b):
 - a. 80 mg per day;
 - b. 1 capsule per day.

Approval duration: 12 months or duration of request, whichever is less

B. Chorea Associated with Huntington Disease (must meet all):

1. Diagnosis of chorea associated with Huntington disease;
2. Prescribed by or in consultation with a neurologist;
3. Age \geq 18 years;
4. Targeted mutation analysis demonstrates a cytosine-adenine-guanine (CAG) trinucleotide expansion of \geq 36 repeats in the huntingtin (HTT) gene;

5. Evidence of chorea is supported by a Unified Huntington Disease Rating Scale (UHDRS) score ranging from 1 to 4 on any one of chorea items 1 through 7 (*see Appendix H*);
6. Ingrezza/Ingrezza Sprinkle is not prescribed concurrently with Austedo/Austedo XR or tetrabenazine;
7. Dose does not exceed both (a and b):
 - a. 80 mg per day;
 - b. 1 capsule per day.

Approval duration: 12 months or duration of request, whichever is less

C. Other diagnoses/indications (must meet 1 or 2):

1. If this drug has recently (within the last 6 months) undergone a label change (e.g., newly approved indication, age expansion, new dosing regimen) that is not yet reflected in this policy, refer to one of the following policies (a or b):
 - a. For drugs on the formulary (commercial, health insurance marketplace) or PDL (Medicaid), the no coverage criteria policy for the relevant line of business: CP.CPA.190 for commercial; or
 - b. For drugs NOT on the formulary (commercial, health insurance marketplace) or PDL (Medicaid), the non-formulary policy for the relevant line of business: CP.CPA.190 for commercial; or
2. If the requested use (e.g., diagnosis, age, dosing regimen) is NOT specifically listed under section III (Diagnoses/Indications for which coverage is NOT authorized) AND criterion 1 above does not apply, refer to the off-label use policy for the relevant line of business: CP.CPA.09 for commercial.

II. Continued Therapy

A. All Indications in Section I (must meet all):

1. Currently Member meets one of the following (a or b):
 - a. Currently receiving medication via Centene benefit or member has previously met initial approval criteria;
 - b. Member is currently receiving medication and is enrolled in a state and product with continuity of care regulations (*refer to state specific addendums for CC.PHARM.03A and CC.PHARM.03B*);
2. Member meets one of the following (a or b):
 - a. For TD: Member is responding positively to therapy as evidenced by a reduction since baseline in any one of Abnormal Involuntary Movement Scale (AIMS) items 1 through 9 (*see Appendix G*);
 - b. For Huntington disease: Member is responding positively as evidenced by a reduction since baseline in any one of the UHDRS chorea items 1 through 7 (*see Appendix H*);
3. Ingrezza/Ingrezza Sprinkle is not prescribed concurrently with Austedo/Austedo XR or tetrabenazine;

4. If request is for a dose increase, new dose does not exceed both (a and b):
 - a. 80 mg per day;
 - b. 1 capsule per day.

Approval duration: 12 months or duration of request, whichever is less

B. Other diagnoses/indications (must meet 1 or 2):

1. If this drug has recently (within the last 6 months) undergone a label change (e.g., newly approved indication, age expansion, new dosing regimen) that is not yet reflected in this policy, refer to one of the following policies (a or b):
 - a. For drugs on the formulary (commercial, health insurance marketplace) or PDL (Medicaid), the no coverage criteria policy for the relevant line of business: CP.CPA.190 for commercial; or
 - b. For drugs NOT on the formulary (commercial, health insurance marketplace) or PDL (Medicaid), the non-formulary policy for the relevant line of business: CP.CPA.190 for commercial; or
2. If the requested use (e.g., diagnosis, age, dosing regimen) is NOT specifically listed under section III (Diagnoses/Indications for which coverage is NOT authorized) AND criterion 1 above does not apply, refer to the off-label use policy for the relevant line of business: CP.CPA.09 for commercial.

III. Diagnoses/Indications for which coverage is NOT authorized:

- A. Non-FDA approved indications, which are not addressed in this policy, unless there is sufficient documentation of efficacy and safety according to the off label use policies – CP.CPA.09 for commercial, or evidence of coverage documents.

IV. Appendices/General Information

Appendix A: Abbreviation/Acronym Key

AIMS: Abnormal Involuntary Movement Scale

APA: American Psychiatry Association

CAG: cytosine-adenine-guanine

DRBA: dopamine receptor blocking agent

DSM-5-TR: Diagnostic and Statistical

Manual of Mental Disorders, Fifth Edition, Text Revision

FDA: Food and Drug Administration

HTT: huntingtin

TD: tardive dyskinesia

UHDRS: Unified Huntington Disease Rating Scale

VMAT2: vesicular monoamine transporter

Appendix B: Therapeutic Alternatives

Not applicable

Appendix C: Contraindications/Boxed Warnings

- Contraindication(s): known hypersensitivity to valbenazine or any components of Ingrezza or Ingrezza Sprinkle
- Boxed warning(s): depression and suicidal ideation and behavior in patients with Huntington's disease

Appendix D: General Information - Tardive Dyskinesia

- Ingrezza/Ingrezza Sprinkle should not be used concurrently with other VMAT2 inhibitors such as tetrabenazine or deutetabenazine as this is considered duplicate therapy.
- Medication-induced movement disorders, including tardive dyskinesia, are organized in the DSM-5-TR as follows: medication-induced parkinsonism, neuroleptic malignant syndrome, medication-induced acute dystonia, medication-induced acute akathisia, tardive dyskinesia, tardive dystonia/tardive akathisia, medication-induced postural tremor, other medication-induced movement disorder, antidepressant discontinuation syndrome, and other adverse effects of medication.
- Tardive dyskinesia is a type of movement disorder that occurs secondary to therapy with an antipsychotic medication or other DRBA (*see Appendix E*). (DSM-5-TR)
- Typical therapeutic drug classes containing DRBAs include first- and second-generation antipsychotics, antiemetics, and tri-cyclic antidepressants (*see Appendix F*). (DSM-5-TR)
- Other therapeutic drug classes containing agents that have been variously associated with movement disorders are listed below: (Waln 2013, Meyer 2014, Lerner 2015)
 - Antiarrhythmics
 - Antibiotics
 - Anticholinergics
 - Antidepressants
 - Antiepileptics
 - Antihistamines
 - Antimanics
 - Bronchodilators
 - Calcium channel blockers
 - Central nervous system stimulants
 - Dopamine agonists
 - Dopamine depleting agents
 - Dopaminergics
 - Glucocorticoids
 - Immunosuppressants
 - Mood stabilizers
 - Muscle relaxants
 - Oral contraceptives

Appendix E: Tardive Dyskinesia: DSM-5-TR Definition

Tardive Dyskinesia (ICD-10 G24.01)

- The essential features of tardive dyskinesia are abnormal, involuntary movements of the tongue, jaw, trunk, or extremities that develop in association with the use of medications that block postsynaptic dopamine receptors, such as first- and second-generation antipsychotic medications and other medications such as metoclopramide for gastrointestinal disorders. The movements are present over a period of ≥ 4 weeks and may be choreiform (rapid, jerky, nonrepetitive), athetoid (slow, sinuous, continual), or semirhythmic (e.g., stereotypies) in nature.
- Signs or symptoms of tardive dyskinesia develop during exposure to the antipsychotic medication or other dopamine blocking agent, or within 4 weeks of withdrawal from an oral agent (or within 8 weeks of withdrawal from a long-acting injectable agent). There must be a history of the use of the offending agent for ≥ 3 months (or 1 month in individuals age ≥ 60 years). Dyskinesia that emerges during withdrawal from an antipsychotic medication or other DRBA may remit with continued withdrawal from the medication. If the dyskinesia persists for ≥ 4 weeks, a diagnosis of tardive dyskinesia may be warranted.

Appendix F: Centrally Acting Dopamine Receptor Blocking Agents

Pharmacologic Class	Therapeutic Class		
	First-generation (typical) antipsychotics	Antiemetic agents	Tri-cyclic antidepressants
Phenothiazine	Chlorpromazine Fluphenazine Perphenazine Thioridazine Thiothixene Trifluoperazine	Chlorpromazine Perphenazine Prochlorperazine Promethazine* Thiethylperazine	Amoxapine [†]
Butyrophenone	Haloperidol	Droperidol Haloperidol**	
Substituted benzamide		Metoclopramide Trimethobenzamide	
Dibenzazepine	Loxapine		
Diphenylbutylpiperidine	Pimozide		
Pharmacologic Class	Second-generation (atypical) antipsychotics		
Quinolone	Aripiprazole, brexpiprazole		
Dibenzazepine	Asenapine		
Piperazine	Cariprazine		
Dibenzodiazepine	Clozapine, quetiapine		
Benzisoxazole	Iloperidone		
Benzisothiazole	Lurasidone, ziprasidone		
Thienobenzodiazepine	Olanzapine		
Pyrimidinone	Paliperidone, risperidone		

(DSM-5-TR, Meyer 2014, Smith 2010, Clinical Pharmacology, Lexicomp)

*First generation H1 antagonist

**Off-label use

[†]A dibenzoxapine that shares properties with phenothiazines

Appendix G: The Abnormal Involuntary Movement Scale (AIMS)

- The AIMS is a clinician-rated 12-item assessment tool developed by the National Institute of Mental Health to evaluate severity of involuntary movements in multiple movement disorders including TD. The AIMS is commonly used in both research and clinical practice.
- AIMS items 1-10 are rated on a 5-point scale (0 - none; 1 - minimal; 2 - mild; 3 - moderate; 4 - severe). Items 1-7 assess dyskinesia severity by body region (items 1-4 orofacial; items 5-7 extremity and trunk). Items 8-10 assess overall severity, incapacitation, and patient awareness respectively - item 8 uses the highest score of any one of items 1-7. Items 11 (dental) and 12 (dentures) are yes/no questions which help characterize lip, jaw, and tongue movements.
- See Munetz 1988 for additional information about the AIMS.

Appendix H: Chorea: The Unified Huntington Disease Rating Scale (UHDRS)

- The UHDRS encompasses motor, behavioral, cognitive, and functional components for use in evaluating patients with Huntington disease and is commonly used in both research and clinical practice.
- The American Academy of Neurology (AAN) guidelines evaluating pharmacologic therapies for chorea associated with Huntington disease describe the chorea subscore of the UHDRS motor component as a rating of 7 body regions (facial, bucco-oral-lingual, trunk, extremities) on a five-point scale from 0 to 4 with 0 representing no chorea.
- See Huntington Study Group 1996 and Mestre et al. 2018 for additional information about the UHDRS.

(AAN Guidelines 2012, Huntington Study Group 1996, Mestre 2018)

V. Dosage and Administration

Drug Name	Indication	Dosing Regimen	Maximum Dose
Valbenazine (Ingrezza, Ingrezza Sprinkle)	TD	40 mg PO once daily; after a week, increase to the recommended dose of 80 mg one daily. A dosage of 40 mg or 60 mg once daily may be considered depending on response and tolerability.	80 mg/day
Valbenazine (Ingrezza, Ingrezza Sprinkle)	Chorea associated with Huntington's disease	40 mg PO once daily; increase the dose in 20 mg increments every two weeks to the recommended dose of 80 mg once daily. A dosage of 40 mg or 60 mg once daily may be considered depending on response and tolerability.	80 mg/day

VI. Product Availability

Drug Name	Availability
Valbenazine (Ingrezza)	Oral capsules: 40 mg, 60 mg, 80 mg
Valbenazine (Ingrezza Sprinkle)	Oral sprinkle capsules: 40 mg, 60 mg, 80 mg

VII. References

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Huntington Disease

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Reviews, Revisions, and Approvals	Date	P&T Approval Date
Policy created per SDC request (adapted from CP.PCH.48 which is being retired as HIM line of business is being added to CP.PHAR.340).	09.09.25	12.26

Important Reminder

This clinical policy has been developed by appropriately experienced and licensed health care professionals based on a review and consideration of currently available generally accepted standards of medical practice; peer-reviewed medical literature; government agency/program approval status; evidence-based guidelines and positions of leading national health professional organizations; views of physicians practicing in relevant clinical areas affected by this clinical policy; and other available clinical information. The Health Plan makes no representations and accepts no liability with respect to the content of any external information used or relied upon in developing this clinical policy. This clinical policy is consistent with standards of medical practice current at the time that this clinical policy was approved. “Health Plan” means a health plan that has adopted this clinical policy and that is operated or administered, in whole or in part, by Centene Management Company, LLC, or any of such health plan’s affiliates, as applicable.

The purpose of this clinical policy is to provide a guide to medical necessity, which is a component of the guidelines used to assist in making coverage decisions and administering benefits. It does not constitute a contract or guarantee regarding payment or results. Coverage decisions and the administration of benefits are subject to all terms, conditions, exclusions, and limitations of the coverage documents (e.g., evidence of coverage, certificate of coverage, policy, contract of insurance, etc.), as well as to state and federal requirements and applicable Health Plan-level administrative policies and procedures.

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